

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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P 170920Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2889

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, SCUL, SOPN, MZ

SUBJ: ASSIGNMENT USIS OFFICER

REF: STATE 202552

1. RECENT ATTEMPTED UPRISING AGAINST LUSAKA ACCORD AND ATTENDANT VIOLENCE HAS HAD SOBERING EFFECT ON ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING NO DOUBT FRELIMO LEADERS AND FRELIMO SUPPORTERS HERE, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE BUT PARTICULARLY DEMOCRATAS OF MOZAMBIQUE. CERTAINLY THE NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING NOTICIAS, TRIBUNA AND NOTICIAS DE BEIRA WHICH HAVE ALL REAPPEARED UNDER PRE-UPRISING EDITORSHIP HAVE SO FAR ADOPTED MORE BALANCED REPORTING, TREND WHICH WAS PERCEPTABLE BEFORE RECENT DISORDERS.

2. PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER BELIEVES, SAMORA MACHEL HAS HINTED AND LOGIC DICTATES THAT NEW FRELIMO-LED GOVERNMENT (EXPECTED START OPERATING IN NEXT FEW DAYS) WILL ATTEMPT TO HEAL WOUNDS, WORK WITH PORTUGUESE, MOZAMBIKAN BUSINESSMEN AND EVEN MAINTAIN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, IF NOT RHODESIA.

3. WE BELIEVE CONSULATE GENERAL IS AT STAGE NOW WHERE WE CAN DO MUCH TOWARD CREATING FAVORABLE RELATIONS WITH NEW
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GOVERNMENT, DESPITE TRADITIONAL INTENSE SUSPICION OF USG

BY FRELIMO DURING "LIBERATION STRUGGLE" PHASE.

4. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE IN SMALL BUT IMPORTANT WAYS IN BOTH INFORMATION AND CULTURAL FIELDS. PRESS IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO USE USIS MATERIALS AGAIN; AFRICANS HAVE ASKED US FOR EDUCATIONAL FILMS; SETTING UP A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONGEN, NEW GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY COULD RESULT IN GRADUAL REINVIGORATION OF FULBRIGHT STUDENT EXCHANGE; AMERICAN PROFESSOR IN TECHNICAL, NON-POLITICAL FIELD MIGHT BE WANTED; VISITOR GRANTS, ESPECIALLY FOR SELECTED AFRICANS, COULD BE MOST TIMELY.

5. ALL THIS SUGGESTS TO US THAT USIS OFFICER WOULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL HERE IN NEAR FUTURE. IF HE IS FLUENT IN PORTUGUESE, HE COULD START DIGGING IN IMMEDIATELY AND THIS COULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR CONTINUING USIA PRESENCE AFTER INDEPENDENCE NINE MONTHS FROM NOW. TO DELAY HIS ARRIVAL UNTIL OUR PROGRAMS FOR THIS YEAR ARE OVERTAKEN COULD BE REAL MISTAKE.

6. THEREFORE, MY VIEWS ON ETA ARE NEXT MONTH IF POSSIBLE.
WALKER

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